

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 13243 01 OF 02 061609Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DHA-02 IO-13 OMB-01 DODE-00 H-02

NSC-05 /083 W

----- 034114

P R 061558Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0964

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, GE, SHUM

SUBJECT: CRITICAL FRG REACTION TO ITALIAN KILLED
AT GDR BORDER

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG PRESS TODAY HEADLINED THE NEWS
OF THE AUGUST 4 KILLING OF ITALIAN TRUCK-DRIVER BENITO
CORGI BY GDR BORDER TROOPS AT THE HIRSCHBERG CROSSING
NEAR HOF. THE INCIDENT DOES NOT HELP FRG GOVERNMENT
EFFORTS TO DENY OPPOSITION CDU-CSU CHARGES THAT IT IS
NOT PROTECTING SUFFICIENTLY HUMAN RIGHTS ALONG THE FRG-
GDR BORDER. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 13243 01 OF 02 061609Z

1. THE AUGUST 6 PRESS THROUGHOUT THE FRG GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE CORGHI SHOOTING AT THE HIRSCHBERG GDR BORDERGUARD CONTROL POST EARLY YESTERDAY MORNING. MOST REPEATED ALMOST VERBATIM THE BRIEF EAST GERMAN ADN NEWS AGENCY REPORT ON THE MATTER, WHICH ALLEGED THAT CORGHI REFUSED TO SUBMIT TO A CONTROL AND WAS SHOT IN THE PROCESS. HE DIED DESPITE IMMEDIATE FIRST AID ATTEMPTS, ACCORDING TO THE ADN REPORT.

2. THE ADN ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY EVENING WAS THE FIRST NEWS THAT FRG AUTHORITIES HAD OF THE CASE, SINCE THE BORDER CONTROL STATION WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED IS OUT OF SIGHT AND NEARLY ONE KILOMETER DISTANT FROM THE NEAREST FRG STATION.

3. ACCORDING TO FRG PRESS REPORTS, WHICH SUPPLEMENTED THE ADN ANNOUNCEMENT, CORGHI HAD DRIVEN A TRUCK LOAD OF PORK OUT OF THE GDR AND PULLED IT OFF THE ROAD INSIDE BAVARIAN TERRITORY, AFTER PASSING BOTH GDR AND FRG CONTROLS. THERE HE REPORTEDLY WAS ASKED BY ANOTHER TRUCK DRIVER TO RETURN TO THE GDR POST FOR FURTHER FORMALITIES. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT IS STILL UNCLEAR. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO AN FRG SPOKESMAN, THE GDR BORDER POST CALLED THE FRG POST (STILL UNAWARE OF THE SHOOTING) YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WITH A REQUEST TO INFORM CORGHI THAT HIS PAPERS WERE THERE. SUBSEQUENTLY, ANOTHER TRUCK DRIVER BROUGHT THEM ACROSS.

4. AS IF THE INCIDENT WERE THUS NOT ALREADY MURKY ENOUGH, AN FRG RADIO REPORT TODAY CLAIMED THAT CORGHI WAS A MEMBER OF THE PCI.

5. AN ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER HERE IN BONN HAS INFORMED US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT HIS EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN PROTESTED THE KILLING TO GDR AUTHORITIES, AND ASKED FOR A DETAILED INQUIRY. GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS INDICATED THEY WERE PAINED AT THE SITUATION, AND STATED THEY WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER. OUR ITALIAN COLLEAGUE STATED THE EAST GERMANS APPEARED TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BONN 13243 01 OF 02 061609Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 13243 02 OF 02 061608Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DHA-02 IO-13 OMB-01 DODE-00 H-02

NSC-05 /083 W

----- 034111

P R 061558Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0965

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13243

BE QUITE EMBARRASSED AT THE CASE, THE FIRST TIME ANY
NON-GERMAN WESTERNER HAS BEEN KILLED BY EAST GERMAN BORDER
AUTHORITIES.

6. ALL PRINCIPAL FRG PARTY SPOKESMEN HAVE CONDEMNED
THE SHOOTING. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD
CRITICIZED THIS UNNECESSARY USE OF FIREARMS BY THE
EAST GERMANS, WHILE LEAVING IT TO ROME AUTHORITIES TO
MAKE ANY OFFICIAL DECLARATION. FRG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
DENOUNCED THIS LATEST EXAMPLE OF THE "BRUTALITY"
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 13243 02 OF 02 061608Z

OF THE GDR REGIME. CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY WITTMANN URGED

THE GOVERNMENT TO ORDER FRG BORDER POLICE TO FIRE BACK
IN THE FUTURE, WHEN GDR TROOPS SHOOT, A RECOMMENDATION
THAT GRUENEWALD REJECTED AS AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN
PLOY.

7. GRUENEWALD ADDED THAT THE FRG DID NOT INTEND TO
CHANGE ITS LAW-AND-ORDER SYSTEM TO CONFORM TO
THAT OF THE GDR.

8. COMMENT: COMING AS THIS DOES SHORTLY AFTER THE
CDU/CSU HAD PUT TOGETHER A LONG LIST OF GDR
ATROCITIES ALONG ITS BORDER TO POINT OUT THE INEFFECT-
TIVENESS OF THE FRG'S ABILITY TO PREVENT SUCH SHOOTINGS,
THE CORGHI INCIDENT DOES NOT HELP THE SCHMIDT EFFORT
TO COUNTER SUCH CHARGES.
HILLENBRAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MURDER, HUMAN RIGHTS, PROTECTIVE SECURITY, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN13243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760303-1181
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760880/aaaacsckk.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CRITICAL FRG REACTION TO ITALIAN KILLED AT GDR BORDER BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG PRESS TODAY HEADLINED THE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, GE, GC, IT, (CORGHI, BENITO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006